

volume of solid waste handled by source reduction and reuse over the SWMP planning period.

SWMP Actions

Table 6-2 shows the City's SWMP actions for the source reduction and reuse of MSW. The City selected SWMP actions based on their alignment with the SWMP goals (in Chapter 4) and their ability to close the gaps between the City's current SWM system and that required in the future. These SWMP actions are discussed in more detail in Chapter 11.

Table 6-2. City of Falls Church MSW Source Reduction and Reuse SWMP Actions

MSW Source Reduction and Reuse SWMP Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improve public outreach and education to promote source reduction and reuse – Implement a Pay-As-You-Throw collection system – Establish a materials exchange – Participate in establishment of regional resource exchange programs – Monitor and publicize waste generation – Implement internal source reduction and reuse programs at City government facilities and schools – Promote surplus food distribution programs

Recycling

Current Programs

MSW recycling rates in the City of Falls Church have consistently exceeded the state mandated 25 percent.



The City of Falls Church has well established, publicized, and available recycling initiatives. Recycling levels in the City have consistently exceeded the state mandated recycling rate of 25 percent. The City's most recent (2002) recycling rate was 51 percent, the majority of which is paper and yard waste. Approximately 6,900 tons of

recyclables were collected within the City in 2002. Table 6-3 shows recycling data for the City of Falls Church from 1999 to 2002. For 2000, disposal data were unavailable and, therefore, the City could not calculate a recycling rate. (Note that MSW recycling includes yard waste, which is discussed in Chapter 8).

Table 6-3. City of Falls Church Recycling Rates (1999–2002), tons

Material	1999	2000	2001	2002
Paper	2,634	4,271	2,663	2,413
Metal	814	1,545	1,159	1,153
Plastic	48	79	38	39
Glass	258	537	140	160
Commingled bottles and cans	0	66	157	209
Yard waste	2,577	3,993	2,718	2,621
Wood	533	20	6	15
Textiles	34	21	52	36
Waste tires	73	67	60	117
Used oil	112	117	118	94
Used oil filters	0	0	2	3
Used antifreeze	0	0	14	11
Batteries	0	9	15	15
Electronics	0	13	15	20
Chemicals and solvents	11	15	1	1
Total material recycled	7,100	10,754	7,152	6,905
Waste disposed	8,111	Not Available	6,254	6,769
Total waste stream	15,211	Not Available	13,406	13,674
City recycling rate	46.7%	Not Available	53.4%	50.5%

The City's recycling program consists of the following primary components: (1) recycling collection, (2) recycling programs and events, (3) materials recovery facilities (MRFs), (4) City recycling policy administration, and (5) public outreach and education. These components are detailed below.

Recycling Collection

The City of Falls Church recycling program includes the following programs for the collection of recyclables: curbside at residences, centralized collection at multifamily complexes, containers at businesses, containers at City government facilities and schools, containers at City parks, the Falls Church Recycling Center, and scrap metal recycling.

The City of Falls Church provides collection of recyclables curbside for single-family homes, most townhouse developments and two condominiums.

- *Curbside at residences.* The City provides curbside recycling to approximately 3,000 households, including all residents of single-family homes, most townhouse developments, and two condominiums. The City's current collection contractor is United Refuse, LLC. Materials collected include newspapers, mixed paper, cardboard, phone books,



aluminum and steel food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles and jugs. Each household receives one or more 18-gallon green bins for storage of commingled recyclables; the City requires that paper (newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, phone books) be placed in paper bags or bundled with twine. Participation in residential recycling is voluntary.

The City requires owners of multi-family complexes to provide opportunities to residents for recycling of newspapers, cans, and glass at least every other week.

- *Centralized containers at multifamily complexes.* Residents of high rise condominiums, apartments, and some townhouse developments receive private recycling collection services. City Code requires that owners of multi-family complexes provide opportunities to residents for recycling of newspapers, cans, and glass at least every other week. Some of these residences also include collection of plastic bottles and jugs.



- *At businesses.* Businesses that have more than 200 employees or that generate more than 100 tons of waste annually are required to establish recycling programs for collection of their principal recyclable material (primarily office paper and cardboard). Most City businesses fall outside these thresholds, but are encouraged to make use of the Falls Church Recycling Center or contract with private recycling companies. The City's Recycling Coordinator provides technical recycling assistance to businesses upon request. Businesses are required to fill out an annual recycling report. Smaller businesses in the City may take mixed paper, cardboard, newspaper, cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and jugs, or any other acceptable recyclable material to the Falls Church Recycling Center or arrange for commercial collection.



Businesses in the City with over 200 employees or that produce more than 100 tons of solid waste annually must recycle their "principal recyclable material."

- *Collection at City government facilities and City schools.* Recycling programs are in place at all City facilities and City schools. These facilities and schools include City Hall, the Community Center, Mary Riley Styles Public Library, Court Services Office, Property Yard, Aurora House Girls' Home, the Gage House, and the City's three public schools (Mount Daniel Elementary,



Thomas Jefferson Elementary, and George Mason Middle and High School). Materials collected include newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, phone books, aluminum and steel food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles and jugs. Environmental Recycling, Inc. (ERI) collects paper from City government facilities and City schools. A combination of contracted services and self-hauling is provided for recycling of commingled containers and cardboard at these facilities.

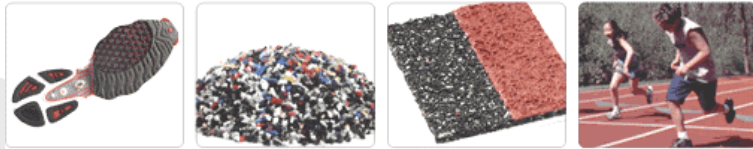
- *Park Recycling Program.* Recycling containers are located in all City parks. Contents are collected up to three times per week by the City's Recreation and Parks staff and are deposited at either City Hall or at the Falls Church Recycling Center.
- *Falls Church Recycling Center.* The Falls Church Recycling Center, an un-staffed drop-off center, is located on City property at 217 Gordon Road, across from the Property Yard. The current collection contractor is Capitol Fiber, Inc., which subcontracts with a local hauler to have the materials transported to the Capitol Fiber MRF in Springfield, Virginia. Materials collected include newspapers, mixed paper, cardboard, phone books, aluminum and steel food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles and jugs. The center is open to both City residents and businesses.
- *Scrap Metal Recycling Program.* The City collects scrap metal for recycling as part of its bulk waste ("special pickup") program. Charges are \$25 per appliance or \$65 per two cubic yards for bulk waste. City crews take the scrap metal to the recycling area at Fairfax County's I-66 Transfer Station.



Recycling Programs and Events

The City of Falls Church recycling program includes several community-wide recycling efforts, programs, and events. These include: the Recycling Extravaganza Program, the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program, the Falls Church Fire Station/Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC) Program, inkjet and laser toner cartridge recycling, recycling drop-off at area stores, America Recycles Day, school field trips, Operation EarthWatch, Thomas Jefferson School Ecology Club, the Business Awards Program, and the annual Volunteer Recognition Picnic.

- *Recycling Extravaganza Program.* Each spring and fall, the City sponsors a one-day event for collection of computers and other electronics (printers, fax machines, copiers, televisions, VCRs, telephones, cell phones, answering machines, pagers, stereos, radios, CD players, Walkmans, calculators, electric typewriters) at the bi-annual “Recycling Extravanzas.” All materials are collected and recycled by electronics recycling contractors (Subtractions, Inc. and E-Structors, Inc.). Citizens pay a nominal charge (\$5-24) to recycle computer monitors and TVs. All other items are accepted free of charge.
- *Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program.* The City of Falls Church is participating with Fairfax County in the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program, a partnership with the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) and Nike for the recycling of used athletic shoes. Shoes collected at the City’s Recycling Extravanzas are transferred to Fairfax County, which is the primary collection point for this program in Northern Virginia.



When the county and City have collected enough shoes to fill a 27-foot trailer (approximately 5,000 pairs), Nike will pick up and ship the shoes to its Reuse-A-Shoe recycling facility in Wilsonville, Oregon. The shoes will be ground to make Nike Grind® material for constructing new sport surfaces such as soccer and football fields, tennis courts and playground surfaces.

- *Falls Church Fire Station/ACBC Program.* A bin is located outside the Falls Church Fire Station for the collection of aluminum cans to benefit the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC) Program.
- *Inkjet and Laser Toner Cartridge Recycling.* Used inkjet and laser toner cartridges are collected at the bi-annual “Recycling Extravanzas” and year-round at City Hall, the Community Center, and City schools. The cartridges are sold to Recycle Ink (\$1/cartridge) through the “Recycle for the Students” program. Local PTAs use the revenues to fund special student projects.
- *Recycling drop-off at area stores.* Additional opportunities for recycling include drop-off of plastic bags at the Giant Food Store or other local supermarkets, and aluminum, copper, and brass at G&L Metals.

- America Recycles Day.* The City sponsors local events in recognition of America Recycles Day (November 15th), including a “Recycle Right” contest in which randomly selected households with perfect recycling set-outs win recycled content prizes. At the second City Council meeting in November, the Mayor reads an America Recycles Day Proclamation, and the City’s Recycling Coordinator makes a presentation that includes recognition of a specific group of volunteers (e.g., ESC, Recycling Block Captains, Adopt-a-Spot participants, EarthWatchers, etc.). Special programs, such as a Green Home Tour featuring recycled content building materials, are held in conjunction with America Recycles Day.



- School Field Trips.* The City’s Recycling Coordinator organizes and supervises annual school field trips to the Fairfax County I-66 Transfer Station for all first grade classes at Mt. Daniel Elementary School. These trips are scheduled in conjunction with the Standards of Learning (SOLs) that focus on solid waste management education.
- Operation EarthWatch.* This program for elementary students, sponsored by the ESC Education Task Group and supported by local businesses and civic groups, encourages environmental awareness and action in the following five program areas: recycling/reuse, waste reduction, water conservation, energy conservation, and nature care. (A more detailed discussion is presented in the Source Reduction and Reuse section of this chapter.)



Sample EarthWatch activities in the area of recycling include: collecting discarded cardboard boxes and preparing them for recycling, picking up cans from a park and recycling them, preparing the family’s recycling bin and setting it at the curb, taking materials to the “Recycling Extravaganza,” filling out and mailing in an America Recycles Day pledge card, and purchasing recycled content products.

- The Thomas Jefferson School Ecology Club.* This club, which meets weekly throughout the school year, is sponsored by the ESC Education Task Group and directed by the City’s Recycling Coordinator. Club members are